



- ❖ Are there any present or potential sources of contamination to the well(s)?

- ❖ What does the treatment plant do to insure that the water is safe to drink? What treatment methods are used?

- ❖ Is your community planning to drill new wells in the near future? If so, how much will it cost? Who will pay?

- ❖ How are local households charged for the water they use? (Do all local homes have water meters?)

- ❖ Does the price per gallon of water increase, decrease or stay the same as the amount used goes up? Does this pricing system encourage conservation?

- ❖ Does your community encourage water conservation in any other way?

3. Ask students to draw a diagram of a water treatment plant (including wells and aquifers) and describe how the facility works.

B) Investigate a wastewater treatment facility.

1. Arrange field trip or guest speaker as outlined in part A.
2. Prepare and send a list of questions you would like answered to the field trip guide or guest speaker so he/she can prepare responses. Questions to consider include:

- ❖ What household water passes through a wastewater treatment plant?

- ❖ Are all the homes in the community connected to a wastewater treatment facility?

- ❖ How does a wastewater treatment facility work?

- ❖ What is "grey-water?"

- ❖ What is "sludge?" Is it solid or hazardous waste? Why?

- ❖ What is done with sludge from the treatment plant?

- ❖ How much wastewater is processed each day?

- ❖ What training does the operator have?

- ❖ What happened to wastewater before the treatment plant was built?

- ❖ How might wastewater affect groundwater?

- ❖ What household materials should not be washed down the drain? Why?

- ❖ Can household chemicals affect bacteria at the wastewater treatment facility?

- ❖ How might sludge affect groundwater?

- ❖ What is the difference between a septic system and a wastewater treatment plant?

- ❖ How might a septic system affect groundwater?

3. Ask students to draw a diagram of a wastewater treatment plant and describe how the facility works.

*Adapted from: **Groundwater Study Guide**. 1984. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Information and Education.*